

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-39 and 43-48, with claims 1, 10, 18, 25, 29, 37-39 and 43-48 being independent. Claims 40-42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has required election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits in this case. The Examiner alleged the existence of five patentably distinct species:

- Species I: First Embodiment;
- Species II: Second Embodiment;
- Species III: Third Embodiment;
- Species IV: Fourth Embodiment; and
- Species V: Fifth Embodiment.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species III, with traverse. The claims that read on the elected species are 1-4, 6-13, 15-21, 23-36 and 43-48.

The Examiner alleged that none of the claims is generic. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17-20 are believed to be generic. Also, since the method steps recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 18 are also recited in claims 25, 29, 37-39 and 43-48, Applicants submit that all claims should be examined together.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Okun", written over a horizontal line.

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